

“Island Systems Planning”
Caribbean Urban Forum 5



Saint Lucia

Call for Papers

June 10 - 12, 2015
Castries



Introduction

From June 10th -12th, 2015, the Saint Lucia Institute of Land Use Planners, Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal, Saint Lucia, The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UHABITAT), and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat will jointly host the fifth annual Caribbean Urban Forum, referred to as CUF5, at Bay Gardens Hotel, Castries, Saint Lucia.

The Forum will bring together land managers, policy makers, academics and allied professionals interested in urban and land management issues within the Caribbean in an effort to further advance land and urban management within the region.

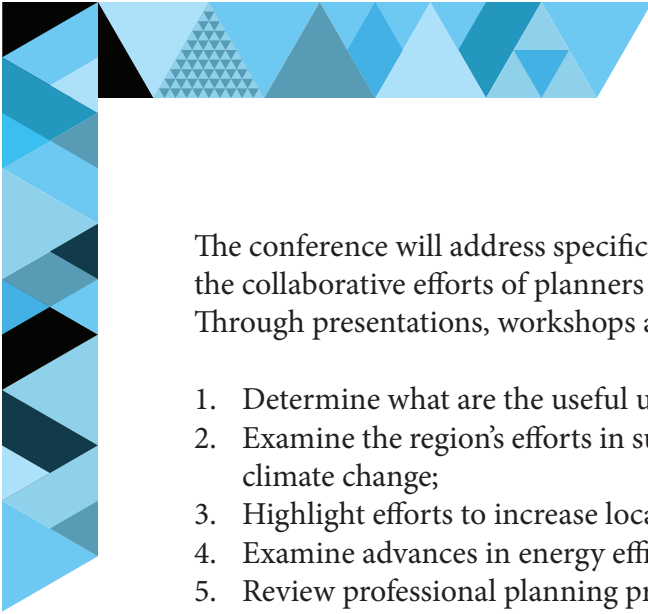
Conference Theme

The primary theme for CUF5 is Island Systems Planning: Whether continental or island, Caribbean countries share similar developmental issues and are considered Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This is also reflected in the nature of our settlement patterns. Given the high density of population but low density of settlements and the sprawling nature of urbanization, normal classifications of 'Urban' and 'Rural' as distinct entities needed rethinking and fine-tuning to our context. The term 'Island Systems Planning' has continuously emerged in our discussions as a useful definition for Caribbean SIDS in previous CUFs.

Now that we are holding CUF5 in the OECS, it is useful to explore this discussion in relationship to the SIDS agenda and its place in the deliberations of the Habitat III process. Elements of this discussion will include:

- the relationship between the urban agenda and sustainable land management in the context of climate change, local economic development, sustainable energy use, sustainable institutions in small societies and disaster management, and
- the transferability of international best practices in urban and land management to SIDS.

Conference Objectives



The conference will address specific policy issues within the Caribbean urban sector, and celebrate the collaborative efforts of planners in the Caribbean and wider America's region.

Through presentations, workshops and discussions the forum will:

1. Determine what are the useful urban/rural classifications for the Caribbean;
2. Examine the region's efforts in sustainable land management to reduce the potential impacts of climate change;
3. Highlight efforts to increase local economic development;
4. Examine advances in energy efficiency as it applies to the urban sector;
5. Review professional planning practice and education across the Caribbean;
6. Examine the region's preparation for HABITAT III;
7. Review Housing policy in the Caribbean;
8. Discuss ideas which can be beneficial to sustainable development in Saint Lucia.

Specific activities which will also be accomplished at CUF5

1. Convene a general meeting of the Caribbean Planning Association (CPA) and;
2. Update the evolving Caribbean Urban Agenda emanating from previous CUFs.

International Call for Papers

The CUF5 Call for Papers aims to solicit presentations that examine issues related to the thematic areas outlined below. The conference seeks to assemble diverse examples of research, urban planning and management practices that have been implemented or can be implemented in a Caribbean and SIDS context to address contemporary issues related to the themes under discussion. Papers can focus on a single theme or more than one theme, as the case may be. Case studies, project and programme reviews, institutional assessments, policy reviews, and theoretical discourse are encouraged. The information gleaned from the papers submitted, as well as the issues aired, may be used to inform the Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) to prepare for any future special meetings of CARICOM Ministers on urban issues.

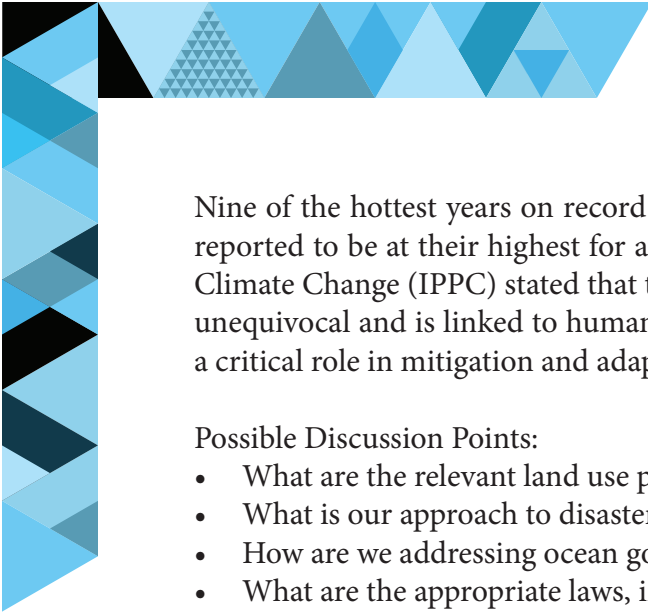
Papers may focus on, but are not limited to:

1. Island Systems Planning

The classification of urban and rural is important for the formulation of land management policies. However, the Caribbean urban fabric is typified by urban sprawl often with no clear distinction between rural and urban. Clarification of our definitions will allow for the development of appropriate tools for decision making.

Possible Discussion Points:

- Is the term "Island Systems Planning" relevant to the Caribbean context? What are the policy implications?
- ##### **2. Sustainable Land Management in the face of Climate Change**



Nine of the hottest years on record have occurred in the last decade and carbon dioxide levels is reported to be at their highest for at least the last 650,000 years. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) stated that the scientific evidence for the warming of the climate system is unequivocal and is linked to human activities. Sustainable Land Management practices must play a critical role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Possible Discussion Points:

- What are the relevant land use planning practices to adapt to and mitigate climate change?
- What is our approach to disaster management?
- How are we addressing ocean governance and coastal management practices?
- What are the appropriate laws, institutions and practices?

3. Local Economic Development for the Caribbean

Local Economic Development is a participatory process that brings together stakeholders in a local area to work together and harness local resources to stimulate the local economy in a sustainable manner. Caribbean countries face challenges with moving from unplanned informal to formal business and community areas. Participatory planning, Leadership and Public Private Partnerships that support human capital and physical infrastructure development can support micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) growth, particularly in small communities.

Possible Discussion Points:

- Why is participatory planning which engages communities and stakeholders considered an important part of Local Economic Development?
- What role can private public partnerships play in resource mobilization and MSME support in communities?
- How can leaders (elected or appointed) promote and guide the transition from informal to formal businesses among MSMEs?

4. Moving Towards Energy Efficiency: Alternatives and Opportunities

The Caribbean uses as much as 200% more energy per unit GDP compared to international best practices. Weak urban planning and management has led to poor urban form such as sprawl, low density development, inefficient transportation systems reliant on automobiles, poor waste management and energy inefficient buildings. While the Caribbean countries are generally small producers of Greenhouse Gases (GHG), with SIDS across the globe estimated to contribute collectively less than 0.1% of the total GHG emissions, these states are at the highest risk from impacts of climate change and climate variability and our energy inefficiency is not economically sustainable.

Possible Discussion Points:

- How can we engage our communities in the move towards better urban form, transportation systems and a built environment which is more energy efficient and economically sustainable?
- What information needs be incorporated into curriculum review process for undergraduate, graduate or professional training?



5. Professional Planning Practice, Education & Training in the Caribbean

The quality and the relevance of training provided both regionally and internationally help to determine the extent to which planners are able to address planning problems in the Region. Across many states there is a need for increased transparency in order to further address urban development challenges. Limited access to large volumes of information held by government and quasi-government institutions remains a significant challenge in planning practice and change is required.

Possible Discussion Points:

- Are our training programmes equipping our planners to engage communities in integrated approaches that seek to create better places for living?
- Do our current engagement and planning frameworks give a voice to our communities?
- How do we increase transparency in the decision making process for development planning outcomes?

6. Habitat III Agenda- The Role of Small Island States in the Habitat Agenda

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in 2016. It is the first UN global summit after the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges. It will discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

Possible Discussion Points:

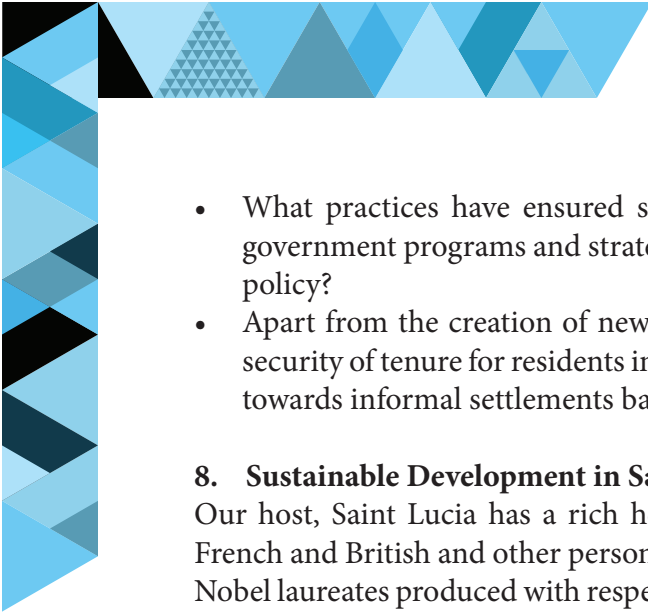
- What issues should be considered in the preparation of a Caribbean SIDS position?

7. Housing Policy in the Caribbean: Lessons Learned & New Directions

Despite the housing programs pursued by several Caribbean governments, the region continues to face a large housing deficit. Governments have funded a range of policies throughout the years to expand housing opportunities for low-income residents, including finished houses, informal settlement upgrading, housing microcredit, and urban land market reform. Looking back, “what are the lessons learned from the Caribbean experience?” Looking ahead, “how should new programmes be structured and financed?” Other key questions include:

Possible Discussion Points:

- To what extent should government participate directly in the housing production? To what extent, should it enable and facilitate private and voluntary-sector housing production? What are the lessons learned in both?
- What models of cooperation—with donors, civil society, financial institutions, and the private sector—have assisted Caribbean countries to reduce housing deficits and why? What barriers restrain more effective collaboration?
- Given the unique political characteristics of Caribbean countries, which housing policy models are transferable to the Caribbean context and why?

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- What practices have ensured synergy and coordination between housing policy and other government programs and strategies, e.g. urban planning, economic, social, and infrastructure policy?
 - Apart from the creation of new housing, which policies and principles have led to increased security of tenure for residents in existing housing? How can Caribbean governments' strategies towards informal settlements balance both social equity and economic development?

8. Sustainable Development in Saint Lucia

Our host, Saint Lucia has a rich heritage reflecting the legacy of its first peoples, Africans, the French and British and other persons who came. It can proudly boast of having the highest ratio of Nobel laureates produced with respect to the total population of any sovereign country in the world with Sir Arthur Lewis (Economic 1979) and Derek Walcott (Literature 1992). Tourism plays a vital role in its economic development. Its mountainous terrain also in part determines the various uses of land.

Possible Discussion Points:

- What are the strategies that should be considered for sustainable development in Saint Lucia?
- Are there lessons from other countries including other SIDS which may be applicable to Saint Lucia?

Submission Criteria

Abstracts and Papers must be original and not submitted to other conferences or publications. Abstracts and Papers should be submitted in English using MS Word or equivalent format using Arial font size 10 and 1" margins. Abstract of the proposed presentation should be no more than 300 words while Papers must not exceed 15 pages including illustrations, bibliography and appendices.

Abstract and Paper submissions must include:

1. Title of the proposed presentation;
2. The sub-theme to which it relates;
3. Name(s) of author(s);
4. Position or title of author(s);
5. Author(s) employer or affiliated institution;
6. Contact details including - e-mail address, telephone/fax numbers and postal address;
7. Short biographical statement (no more than 100 words) regarding the author(s);
8. Photograph of each author.

Submission can include a single presenter or a group of presenters. Groups must not exceed three (3) persons and can include a mix of government officials and policy makers, practitioners, civil society and academics/ researchers.

Authors will be allowed a 15 minute slot for delivering their papers and are expected to prepare a sound PowerPoint presentation.



Submission of Proposal for Panels

Proposals should be submitted electronically to:
Papers and Presentations Sub-Committee
Email: info@bluespacecaribbean.com
Deadline: on or before March 31st 2015.

Feedback on abstracts will be provided by April 30th 2015
Full Papers and PowerPoint presentations will be required by May 31st 2015

Questions regarding papers for presentations or panel discussion should be submitted to: info@bluespacecaribbean.com

Travel and Stay Expenses

Please note that expenses for attending the CUF5 conference (including travel, accommodation and conference fee) will be the responsibility of the author(s)/presenter(s) of the accepted papers, and at least one of the authors must be present for the programme.

Call for Exhibitors

CUF5 provides an opportunity for private and public sector entities involved in urban planning, land development and environmental related matters to showcase their services and products. To request a copy of our exhibition package, please email the CUF 2015 Local Planning Committee at cufinslu2015@gmail.com

Questions?

For further information on general conference proceedings please contact:
Nika Maingot, Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management,
Telephone: 1(868) 662-2002 ext. 83386
Email: info@bluespacecaribbean.com



Registration Costs

- **Full Professional Registration** (Early Bird): USD \$325.00 (before May 15th 2015)
- Full Professional Registration (Regular): USD \$375.00
- **Full Student Registration** (Early Bird): USD \$200.00 (before May 15th 2015)
- Full Student Registration (Regular): USD \$250.00
- **One-day Registration** USD \$150.00

Please contact cufinslu2015@gmail.com for payment options.

The CUF 5 is Hosted by:



Government of Saint Lucia

M P D H U R



MINISTRY OF
PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING AND
URBAN RENEWAL



E C S

ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES



IDB

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